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I.

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Described in a Letter to Dr. Gregory, by R. R. Madden, Esq., a Professional Traveller in Turkey.

Constantinople, Oct. 25, 1824.

DEAR SIR,—The practice of physic in this country is of so extraordinary a nature, that I presume you will take some interest in the history of its absurdity.

There are about fifty medical practitioners in Constantinople, principally Franks, from Italy and Malta, and a few Ionian Greeks, Armenians, and Copts; of this number there are, perhaps, five regularly educated physicians, and two of these are English gentlemen, highly respected both by the Turks and Franks. Every *medico* has his allotted quarter; he beats this ground daily in pursuit of patients, and visits all the coffee-houses in the district with a Greek *drogueman*, as interpreter, at his heels, whose occupation is to scent out sickness, and to extol the doctor. They are ever to be found on the most public bench of the coffee-shop, smoking with profound gravity, and prying into the features of those around them for a symptom of disease. I confess I had to descend to this degradation to get practice, in order to become acquainted with the domestic customs

of the people. The first day my *drogueman*, who had just left the service of a Roman doctor, and had been practising on his own account since his discharge (for all *droguemen* become doctors), took upon him to teach me my professional duty, which he made to consist in never giving advice before I got my fee,—in never asking questions of the sick,—and in never giving intelligible answers to the friends; I was to look for symptoms only in the pulse; I was to limit my *prognosis* to three words, *In Shallah*, or “Please the Lord,” for doubtful cases; and *Allackharim!* or “God is great!” for desperate ones. I took my post in the coffee-shop, had my pipe and coffee, while my *drogueman* entered into conversation with the Turks about us. I soon heard him narrating a history of a miraculous cure, which he had seen me perform some days before, on the body of a dying Effendi; how I had taken out his liver, and put it in again, after scraping off the disease, and how the patient got well the next day, and gave me five purses. I was exceedingly annoyed; but the fellow seemed to mind my anger little, and even reproved “my want of prudence” with a frown.

Now, the only thing that could have given origin to “the scraping of the man’s liver,” &c., was my having opened a boil in his own back the day before. The Turks

swallowed this story ; had it been more marvellous, it would have been still easier digested: one turned up his eyes, and said, "there was but one God;" another praised my skill, and cried, "Mahomet is the friend of God!" The latter gentleman held out his wrist to have his pulse felt, and said, in a very civil tone of voice, *Guehl, giaour*,—"Come, you dog." This endearing epithet Turks consider ought not to give an infidel offence, because it is more a man's misfortune than his fault to be born "a Christian," and consequently "a dog."

My Greek, whose familiarity was very offensive, (and it is a national fault,) now whispered in my ear, "No bite, that fellow never pays." I gave the man, however, my advice, and got a cup of coffee in return.

A well-dressed man, who had been sitting by my side in silence for half an hour, at last recollected he had a wife or two unwell, and very gravely asked me "what I would cure a sick woman for?"—It was a question to delight the soul of Abernethy. I inquired her malady,—“she was sick.” In what manner she was affected,—“why, she could not eat.” On these premises I was to undertake to cure a patient, who, for aught I knew, might be at that moment *in articulo mortis*. I could not bring myself to drive the bargain; so I left my enraged drogue-man to go through that pleasing process. I heard him ask a hundred piastres, and heard him swear by his father's head and his mother's soul, that I never took less: however, after nearly an hour's haggling, I saw fifty put into his hand; and the promise of a hundred more, when the patient got well, I saw treated

with the contempt which, in point of fact, it deserved. No man makes larger promises than a Turk in sickness, and no man is so regardless of them in convalescence. I visited my patient, whom I afterwards found both old and ugly; but I was doomed, on the first occasion, to see no part of her form; she insisted on my ascertaining her disease with a door between us, she being in one room and I in another: the door was ajar, and her head, enveloped in a sheet, as it was occasionally projected to answer me, was the only part of her I had a glimpse of. This was the only woman I ever attended here, or in the islands, who would not suffer the profanation of my fingers on her wrist. I, however, could just collect enough from the attendants, to cause me to suspect she had a cancer; and I did all, under such circumstances, that I could well do,—I gave her an opiate. This lady was no sooner prescribed for, than my attention was directed to the youngest wife, who was pleased to need advice, though her sparkling eyes and smiling lips denoted little of disease. She was extremely pretty, and removed her veil with little difficulty; but she would have her pulse felt through a piece of gauze, which was sufficiently thin to transmit, not only the pulsations of the artery, but also the pressure of the fingers, which mode of communicating symptoms I found a very common one in practice. I ordered her some medicine, which I am quite sure she did not take, and which, in all probability, she did not require. After smoking a pipe, and drinking sherbet, I took my leave.

In a few days after this, my first visit in Constantinople, I was sent for to the house of a grandee, where

a consultation was to be held on a Pacha's case, and one of great importance. I found the patient lying in the middle of a large room, on a mattress spread on the carpet; for the "four-posted beds" of Don Juan and Dudu have no existence in Turkey, and both gentlemen and ladies repose on their mattresses, thrown on the carpet of the divan, in their daily habiliments, none of which they doff at night.

A host of doctors, Jews, Greeks, Italians, and even Moslems, thronged round the sick man; and amongst them were jumbled the friends, slaves, and followers of the patient: the latter gave their opinion as well as the doctors, and, in short, took an active share in the consultation. But he who took upon himself to broach the case to the faculty, was a Turkish priest, who administered to the diseases both of soul and body. He prefaced his discourse with the usual origin of all things: he said,—“In the beginning God made the world, and gave the light of *Islam* to all the nations of the earth. Mahomet (to whose name be eternal honor) was ordained to receive the perspicuous volume of the Koran from the hands of the angel Gabriel; which book was written, by the finger of God, before the foundation of the world; and in its glorious page was to be found all the wisdom of every science, whether of theology or physic; *therefore*, all learning, except that of the Koran, was vain and impious; therefore he had consulted it in the present case, and the repetition of the word honey, he discovered tallied with the number of days his highness suffered (to whom God give health); therefore honey was a sovereign remedy, and one of its component parts was wax, a true specific for the disease before them.

Did not the bee suck the juice of every herb? was there not wax in honey? did not wax contain oil? *therefore*, why not try the oil of wax? Oh! illustrious doctors!” he continued, “let us put our trust in God, and administer the dose: our patient has been thirty-six days sick, *therefore*, let him have six-and-thirty drops every six-and-thirty hours. And as there is but one God, and Mahomet is, *therefore*, his prophet, let the oil of wax be given!”

The moment this rigmarole ended, all the servants, and even many of the doctors, applauded the discourse.

There was no time allowed for discussion; the same archpriest took care to see the doctors feed forthwith; each of us got four Spanish dollars, and left the unfortunate sick man to his fate: but going out, when I expressed my astonishment to one of the faculty (an old Armenian) about the exhibition of this new remedy, he looked around him cautiously, and whispered in my ear the word “poison!” On further inquiry, I found the bulk of the patient's property was invested in a mosque. In spite of the remonstrance of my drogued man, I returned to the door I had just quitted, and gave an attendant to understand, his master would die if he took the medicine. The poor man died, however: I heard of the event about a month afterwards.

I was shortly after called to a man who was said to have a fever: when I visited him, I asked what was the matter with him, and where he felt pain? but his friend made the customary reply, “That is what we want to know from you: feel his pulse, and tell us!” I accordingly did so,—found it rapid,

his breathing laborious, and his skin hot ; but not one of the symptoms could I get from the patient or attendants. The Turks have the ridiculous idea, that a doctor ought to know every disease by applying the fingers to the wrist. I thought from what I observed, I was warranted in taking blood in this case. I did so ; but no sooner had I bound up the arm, than I was requested, for the first time, to examine the other hand, which I did, and, to my utter astonishment, found two of the fingers carried away, the bones protruding ; and then only was I informed, that the patient was in the army, and had lost his fingers a week before by the explosion of a gun.

I suspected at once the occurrence of locked-jaw ; I felt his neck ; it was like a bar of iron : the man had been laboring under tetanus for three days, and died the following morning. You may well conceive my indignation at such incredible stupidity as the attendants exhibited here, and my choler at being told the result "had been written in the great book of life," and could not be avoided or deferred. Be that as it may, I certainly would not have bled him, had I any reason to suspect the affection of which he died. You may imagine how difficult it is for a medical man to treat such people ; and, consequently, how rarely they are benefited by him. There are few Mahometans who do not put faith in amulets ; I have found them on broken bones, on aching heads, and sometimes over love-sick hearts. The latter are worn by young ladies, and consist of a leaf or two of the hyacinthus, which the Turks call "mus-charumi :

this is sent by the lover, and is intended to suggest the most obvious rhyme, which is "ydskerumi," and implies the attainment of their soft desires.

Sometimes these amulets are composed of unmeaning words, like the *abracadabra* of the ancient Greeks for curing fevers, and the *abracalans* of the Jews for other disorders. At other times they consist simply of a scroll, with the words *Bismillah*,—"In the name of the most merciful God," with some cabalistical signs of the Turkish astrologer Geffer ; but most commonly they contain a verse of the Koran.

I think the most esteemed in dangerous diseases, are shreds of the clothing of the pilgrim camel, which conveys the Sultan's annual present to the sacred city : these are often more sought after than the physician, and frequently do more good than the physician, because greater faith is put in them.

The most common of all these charms is the amber bead, with a triangular scroll, worn over the forehead, which the *Marabouts* and the Arab sheiks manufacture, and is probably an imitation of the phylacteries which the Jews were commanded "to bind them, for a sign, upon their hands, and to be as frontlets between their eyes." It would be well if no more preposterous and disgusting remedies were employed ; but I have taken off from a gun-shot wound a roasted mouse, which, I was gravely informed, was intended to extract the ball.

A less offensive and a more common application to wounds, is a roasted fig. I believe old women prescribe it for gumboils in England, and the practice is as

old as Isaiah, who ordered "a mass of figs" to Hezekiah's boil.

Of all Turkish remedies, the vapor bath is the first and most efficacious in rheumatic and cuticular diseases. I have seen them removed in one-fourth part of the time in which they are commonly cured with us. In such cases I cannot sufficiently extol the advantages of the Turkish bath: the friction employed is half the cure, and the articulations of every bone in the body are so twisted and kneaded, that the most rigid joints are rendered pliant.

I have trembled to see them dislocate the wrist and shoulder joints, and reduce them in a moment: their dexterity is astonishing, and Mohammed's shampooing, at Brighton, is mere child's play in comparison. Query,—would not gout be benefited by this remedy, provided it could be really introduced into England as it is used in Turkey?

As a luxury, I cannot better describe it than in the words of Sir John Sinclair:—"If life be nothing but a brief succession of our ideas, the rapidity with which they now pass over the mind would induce one to believe, that, in the few short minutes he has spent in the bath, he has lived a number of years."

I cannot conclude without telling you how all Frank medical men are teased by the Turks for *aphrodisiacs*, which they denominate *madjoun*: I am solicited for it at every corner; and it is lamentable to observe, that hardly a man arrives at the age of five-and-thirty, whom debauchery has not rendered debilitated, and dependent on adventitious excitement for his pleasures. The la-

dies, on the other hand, are desirous of gaining honor by a progeny like Priam's, but they have few children in general, for polygamy is, probably, injurious to population. They cease not, however, to annoy me for medicines to make them fruitful; and are as solicitous for specifics as Rachel was to obtain from her sister some of the prolific mandrakes.

I had always occasion to observe that the sick man was all civility and courtesy when his life was in jeopardy, but the moment he became convalescent he treated me with arrogance, as if he had been ashamed of letting an infidel see that a Moslem was subject to the infirmities of humanity. My services were forgotten whenever they ceased to be required. All the other medical men complained of the same ingratitude; indeed, no physician opened his mouth till the patient opened his purse. The Greeks certainly behave better in this respect; but yet there is that strange obliquity of principle in them, that I never doubted, while a Greek fed me generously with one hand, that he would not have picked my pocket with the other at the same moment. Such is the low state of medical science in this country; and such probably it was in Europe so late as the tenth century. It has been well remarked, that the state of medicine may be considered as the criterion or barometer of the science in a nation. Wherever science and refinement have extended their influence, there medicine will be most cherished, as conducive to the interests and happiness of mankind.

(To be continued.)

II.

OBSTINATE CONSTIPATION.

*Case illustrating the Necessity of Actual Examination and Mechanical Remedies.**

By WILLIAM COX, M.D.

A. B., a female, about 60, a few weeks ago, became a patient of mine. Her general health was good, and she took her meals with appetite. She was a woman of very sedentary habits, seldom or never moving from the house, or using any kind of exercise. She stated that for a long time she had been subject to habitual costiveness; and that she was constantly obliged to have recourse to opening medicine of some kind, without which the bowels would become permanently confined. Her first application to me was when she stood much in need of such medicine. I found much difficulty in procuring evacuations, which were effected only by strong cathartics in repeated doses. I therefore directed her nurse to try the effect of a daily use of warm water as an enema; and to throw up a bulky injection immediately after the stomach was distended by her breakfast. I also advised my patient, about a quarter of an hour after that meal, to make an effort to relieve herself; and by such means endeavor to bring the bowels into a habit of emptying themselves. Nothing but gruel was allowed her for supper. After the first attempt to throw up an enema of warm water, the nurse informed me that my patient had "*piles*;" and also that "*her body was much down.*" Of course, from this de-

scription, I concluded that there was prolapsus ani. On examining my patient, in order to ascertain her real condition, I found a few hæmorrhoides externally; but I quickly perceived that what the nurse had in the first instance mistaken for a protrusion of the gut, was in fact an actual protrusion of scybala; so hard, firm, and compact, that although, by the repeated efforts and straining of the patient, the anus was so stretched as to be very open and large, yet she could not relieve herself. I therefore had immediate recourse to mechanical means; first making use of the handle of a table-spoon, as a sort of scoop, and afterwards of my finger; and, to my surprise, I found the rectum stretched and expanded into a capacious bag or pouch, and filled with scybala; an amazing quantity of which I removed, some part of them being so dry as to crumble into powder when crushed. Having perfectly cleared the gut, as far as the finger could possibly reach, it became a question whether or not there were other accumulations of a similar kind higher up. That there were, I could scarcely doubt, and I considered it indispensably necessary that there should be a perfect clearing out of the retained materials. For this purpose various means were adopted. The patient was put into a warm bath, to promote relaxation; purgatives of various kinds were given, in order that, by their respective specific action, every part of the alimentary canal might be stimulated. Calomel, jalap, cathartic extract, the black draught, ol. ricini, &c., were administered in succession for some days. The whole sur-

* From the London Medical Gazette.

face of the abdomen was subjected to friction with an oiled hand, in a circular direction, from right to left above, from left to right below, from below upwards on the right side, and from above downwards on the left. Clysters of warm water, in the quantity of a pint and a half, were thrown up; and the patient was confined strictly to a water-gruel diet, into which a portion of ol. olivar. was daily put without her knowledge. This plan was followed day after day for some time, and with the best effects; for during many days a considerable quantity of fecal matter was brought away, of the most offensive nature; and the abdomen, which before was full, firm, tense, and unyielding, now became reduced, relaxed, and soft. The motions gradually assumed a natural appearance; the aperient medicines by degrees were laid aside; and at last, when there appeared to be no further occasion for their use, left off altogether. A free passage throughout the whole alimentary canal appeared to be re-established, and a healthy action of the different organs brought about. In this state the patient removed to another part of the country, and I have not heard from her since. She had never been subject to hernia; neither was there any disease of the pelvic viscera, nor any thickening or enlargement of the uterus or the bladder, so as to press against the rectum. After she became my patient, I learned that the medical gentleman who previously attended her, had for a long time given her drastic cathartics, sometimes, I believe, elaterium; but all the evacuations that were procured must have passed down, in

a more or less liquid state, between the sides of the rectum and the hard accumulated feces it contained. On no occasion, while under my care, was she troubled with sickness or vomiting; nevertheless, I satisfied myself, by examination, that there was no hernia; and, by examination per vaginam, that there was no diseased enlargement of the uterus, &c.

The history of this case I think satisfactorily proves that, in many instances of long-continued and obstinate constipation, a personal examination of the patient is absolutely necessary. Had not this female been mechanically relieved, her life must ultimately have been sacrificed; and doubtless many a life has been lost for want of such examination.

P. S.—There was a remarkable dirty yellowness of skin, or rather, dirty *sallowness*, in this patient; which I attributed to the long retention of fecal matter in the alimentary canal, for the skin became improved in clearness after she was relieved.

III.

MELCENA.

The following interesting case is related in an English Journal, by H. S. Balcombe, M.D., and has doubtless many parallels among us, which are but imperfectly understood.

JUNE 1st, 1828.—Mr. H. this day requested my advice. He states himself to be in his 57th year; to have long labored under dyspepsia, for which a few simple remedies have from time to time been taken, but that he has never undergone any regular course of

medicine, nor remitted his accustomed duties. For many years he has devoted the greater part of the day to business, and his spare time has been chiefly devoted to literary pursuits. The death of a very intimate friend, a short time ago, gave him a severe shock, and first made him think a little more seriously of his state of health. He complains of fulness of the stomach; an unpleasant sense of fluttering about the chest; vitiated taste; fulness and viscidness of the fauces; constant nausea; and torpid bowels. The tongue is very pale, and streaked with yellow; pulse 80, and languid; evacuations pitchy black; urine pale; countenance anxious, and of a dirty yellow color; abdomen distended, and soft; and pressure creating no pain in any part. An emetic brought away an immense quantity of sordes and undigested food. He was so much relieved by it, that another was given on the succeeding day with the same effect, but followed by considerable hæmatemesis, the blood being exceedingly dark. The bowels were well emptied; the evacuations as before, pitchy black. He now complained of occasional vertigo, general restlessness, anxiety, and frequent faintings: he had one fit during my visit, which alarmed us all much: he soon recovered, and after taking a little food, de-

clared himself much relieved, and feeling very comfortable.

In consultation with Dr. Goldie, it was determined to give small doses of blue pill and opium morning and evening; the nitric acid in infus. ros. ter die, and to try to support him by a moderately generous diet. Under this plan, from the 3d up to the 8th, he appeared to improve so much that all his family had sanguine hopes of his recovery, and our longer attendance was thought unnecessary; though both Dr. G. and myself, well aware of the deceitful nature of the disease, and of the danger that lurked under all this semblance of returning health, felt justified in giving a very cautious prognosis, and in endeavoring to moderate the feelings of the family. On the 13th, I was again summoned to him hastily, in consequence of a return of all his symptoms, supposed to have been brought on by over-exertion, and a little excess in food. I found him very ill: tongue brown and dry; pulse quick, feeble, and fluttering; syncope upon the least exertion; much blood, dark and grumous, passing down. Some stimulants were exhibited with temporary benefit; but at 9, P. M., we were again urgently sent for, and arrived just as he had expired.

Inspection of the body was declined.

SKETCHES OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

ANTI-SPECIFIC NATURE OF VENEREAL VIRUS.

AMONG the *Antis* of the day, it would be somewhat remarkable if subjects connected with the medical profession should not be introduced.

The last number of the London Medical and Physical Journal contains some remarks on the nature and treatment of bubo; the author of which is evidently of the class of modern sceptics in regard to the spe-

cific character of venereal virus. He considers the general cause of bubo to be irritation in the course of the lymphatics leading to the inguinal glands. Of course, it may be occasioned by a local cause applied to the foot or leg, as well as by syphilitic virus: the nature of the inflammation depends on its common seat, not on its various causes; consequently, the rules for treatment are common to all cases, without discrimination between syphilitic and others. In regard to the general treatment, bleeding, purging, and antimonials, are recommended, if much excitement is present, but otherwise are to be abstained from. Warm applications are to be preferred to cold, even while the object is the discussion of the tumor. The chance of effecting this is considered equally great as when the opposite means are employed, and the danger is avoided of leaving that hard, indolent swelling, which so often remains when discussion has been produced by cold applications. In this opinion we fully coincide; and it is by no means clear to us, that the same principle of treatment ought not to be extended to other phlegmonous tumors, as well as those of the glandular character.

In the secondary, or suppurating stage, the same local treatment is to be continued, and the abscess generally allowed to burst of itself. When an artificial evacuation is necessary, the author advises caustic in preference to the lancet,—a preference we suspect not very common at the present day. In this way, however, it is expected to ensure the entire de-

struction of the bubo, within a short time of casting off the slough.

In the ulcerative stage, tonic treatment is sometimes required, and occasionally some caustic substance, or the mercurial ointment, is needed as a local stimulus. Mercury, in every other form, is held to be inadmissible or useless throughout the progress of the disease, whatever be its character or origin. The distinction of buboes into scrofulous and venereal, is regarded as wholly useless; as no benefit is thought likely to arise from treating venereal buboes upon any other principle than that of meeting general indications, without reference to the remote cause.

The views above stated are certainly entitled to attention, and seem, on the whole, to be gaining ground in the medical community. We confess ourselves, however, disposed to receive these anti-specific doctrines with considerable distrust. Before the introduction of mercury in the treatment of syphilis, it had in its various forms been treated on general principles, and we know that its ravages were dreadful. Since that period, also, attempts have been frequently made, and as frequently abandoned, to dispense with its use. Sarsaparilla, mezereon, &c., have had their day, and are not likely to be revived; while the anti-syphilitic powers of mercury have maintained their reputation through all these vicissitudes, and have now acquired an importance in the opinions and the practice of the profession, which it will require much time, and many facts in addition to those we now possess, materially to impair.

ALOES.

A WRITER in the Medical Gazette, denies that the apprehensions entertained of this drug, as tending to produce or aggravate hæmorrhoidal affections, are well founded. Hæmorrhoids, indeed, are not necessarily connected with the use of any cathartic. They occur in loose as well as in costive habits; but in the last case, which is a frequent one, as aloes is frequently found a convenient article for procuring stools, and is often resorted to for that purpose, it has hence unjustly acquired the reputation of an agent in producing them. The mode in which it is supposed to do this, is by stimulating the lower part of the rectum; but, notwithstanding this general impression, there exists no proof that the article produces its principal effect on this portion of the passage. It is much more probable, that its chief action is exerted on the colon, and that the rectum acts in consequence of the stimulus of distention after the fæces are conveyed there. The author argues further that, considering the very general use of the article as a popular remedy in constipation, and that it enters into the composition of most of the pills used for this purpose, its effects ought to be visible in the very general production of piles, in a greater or less degree, in those addicted to the use of cathartics, which does not appear to be the fact.

As far as our own experience on this subject extends, we should be disposed to agree with our author in regarding aloes, particularly when combined with rhubarb, as a safe,

easy, and effectual cathartic, extremely well adapted for cases of habitual constipation in which it is found necessary to have recourse to articles of this description. With regard to the production of hæmorrhoids, there does not, we have said, seem much ground for attaching much agency to aloetic cathartics; hence we should doubt, also, the correctness of the very general prejudice which exists against its use in this disease.—Another prevalent notion is, that aloes is contraindicated in pregnancy, as its stimulating property extends to the organ mainly concerned in that process. That violent catharsis has a tendency to interrupt the progress of gestation, is abundantly proved; but that this is especially the case when aloes is employed, has not, by any means, been demonstrated. The argument drawn from its effect in amenorrhœa, is imperfect for several reasons. In the first place, the effect of aloes as an emmenagogue is confessedly very uncertain; and when it does succeed, its *modus operandi* is mere matter of conjecture. In the second place, the state of the organ is so materially altered by the circumstance alluded to, that it is impossible to reason from its actual effect in one state, to its probable influence in the other. From the effect of *secale cornutum* in labor, great advantages were at one time expected from its employment in amenorrhœa, and great danger from its administration during the period of gestation. Neither of these anticipations has been verified, and with respect to the former, it has been shown to be the reverse of the fact;

since the article alluded to has been employed in menorrhagia with the most decided success. On the whole, we are justified in suspecting that the fear of employing aloes in pregnancy is the effect of prejudice, rather than the result of experience; and that, administered in moderate quantities, it is not likely to be attended with more danger in such cases, than other purgatives in common use.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1829.

THE SIAMESE BROTHERS.

Our readers have been apprized, through the newspapers, of the arrival in this city, and public exhibition, of the united boys from Siam. On first viewing them, the attention is arrested by their healthy and happy appearance. They are nearly of the ordinary stature, have heads uncommonly large, and foreheads higher, but less broad, than those of young men generally at their age. Their complexion, features, and countenance, are altogether Chinese, and accord with tolerable exactness. After seeing them often, however, the peculiarities of each become more evident, and they appear scarcely, if any, more resemblant than other twins have appeared when clad in like apparel.

By the plate below, which is that already before the public, they would appear to be united by a cartilaginous substance of an hourglass shape, passing from the epigastric region of one, and attached to that of the other. This, however, is not the case. The skin is continuous from one boy to the other; and with the exception of a scar in the lower surface, evidently occasioned by the removal of the cord through which they were nourished in the foetal state, it presents

no mark, blemish, or discoloration whatever. This scar bears but little resemblance to that usually left by the division of the umbilicus; a fact which may be explained in two ways. It may be owing to some manner of performing this operation among the Siamese, different from that in use among us; or the constant pulling on this connecting mass, may have drawn it out, and occasioned the long and even surface which it presents.



On closer examination, the true nature of the union becomes evident. The ensiform cartilages of the sternum are bent outwards, and united by ligaments at their extremities, forming a kind of joint which admits of motion in various directions. By the pulling of these ligaments, occasioned by almost every movement, the

integuments below have been drawn out, as it were, so that the whole forms a band of union, horizontally about two inches broad, and in thickness, vertically, about four inches. Its length is about half that represented in the plate, and was doubtless originally very small. The whole mass is tough, and capable of being extended very considerably. When loose, that is, when the boys face each other and stand close together, if one hand be placed above this curvature and the other below it, and the latter be then pressed forcibly up, the hands approach each other so nearly, as to convey the impression (doubtless a correct one) that the intervening substance is little more than the ensiform cartilages united by ligaments, and surrounded by the integuments. The concave inner, but in this case *under*, surface of these cartilages, is distinctly felt, but no pulsation whatever is distinguishable.

Although we cannot say that the skin which envelopes this projection was originally endowed with less sensibility than that which covers other parts of the body, yet it is evident that such deficiency exists at present. We were obliged to press it forcibly between the fingers before any mark of pain was elicited, and we were informed by the attendant that he had often pinched it during their slumbers without disturbing them.

The precise effect of this physical union, on the intellectual faculties, the moral sentiments, and animal propensities of these boys,—its influence on the functions of the different

organs, and how far it would communicate or modify the effects of morbid or medicinal agents, are subjects on which we shall not enter. No opportunity has yet presented of observing the influence which disease or medicine in one, would exert on the other; but circumstances do not appear to justify the least suspicion of any mental individuality. Whispering in the ear of one, conveyed no sense of sound to the other. Volatile salts applied to the nostrils of one, produced in the other only a curiosity to try the same experiment on himself. Pinching the arm of one, was attended by no sensation in the other. Being desirous of ascertaining if there was *any* point where both felt, we made an impression with the point of a pin in the exact vertical centre of their connecting link; both said it hurt them. We then made other impressions, extending them very gradually further from this point: the result was, that within the distance of three-fourths of an inch from the centre toward each boy, sensation was communicated to both by a single prick; beyond this it was excited in one only, the other perceiving it in no degree whatever. This experiment was remarkably satisfactory, and we apprehend that farther than here exhibited, the two youths must be considered, whilst in a state of health, as free and independent agents, and the functions of all the other organs as unconnected as those of their brains.

Twins frequently resemble each other in intellect and disposition, as well as in person, and this is particularly the case with the boys in ques-

tion. When to this natural resemblance we add the habit they have contracted of acting simultaneously and in concert, we shall be less surprised than we might at first be, at the facility with which their various movements are performed, and the quickness with which one responds to the inclinations of the other.

In the course of their voyage, they would not only run, we are told, and leap with great agility and without interfering with each other, but climb to the mast-head as fast as any sailor on board the ship. They are seldom observed to converse with each other, and the concert with which they act seems to be almost instinctive. In playing the game of drafts, e. g., which they learnt with great ease, being of a people naturally fond of games and gambling, they were observed to decide on their moves almost instantaneously, and to make them with a quickness and air of decision sufficiently characteristic of all their movements. In the course of the game, sometimes one and sometimes the other would make the move; they appeared to have the same plans, and always acquiesced in the moves of each other. Yet they sometimes *play against each other*; but so strong is their habit of co-acting, that such games go on with less freedom than when opposing a third person.—Their alvine evacuations generally occur at the same time; their appetites and tastes are all very much alike; and they appear not only contented but happy, and extremely attached to each other.—Capt. Coffin was informed by their mother that she had borne seven-

teen children. Once she had three at a birth, and never less than two; though none of her other children were in any way deformed.

The question naturally arises in the mind of every observer, could not this connecting substance be divided without injury to the boys? We do not pretend to solve this problem, which after all can only be fully decided by the experiment; but we hesitate not to say that, after several very accurate examinations, our impressions are that such division would be a detriment only to the very respectable and obliging gentleman who offers them for exhibition. The anatomical structure of this bond of union is apparently simple, and we regard the fact that children so united should have been ushered into the world with safety to themselves and their mother, that they should have escaped the ills and early fatality which usually attend such prodigies, that they should have grown up to the age of 18 years in the uniform exercise of mutual good will and a spirit of mutual accommodation, and that they should be so perfectly contented with their lot, and so happy in all the various unpleasant circumstances in which they are placed, as far more remarkable than that such a deformity should have existed. Instances of fœtuses united much more closely than are these boys, are by no means rare in the books or cabinets of anatomists. The mode of union is very various, being sometimes at the hips, backs, or sides; several cases are related by Parée and Tulpius, in which the connection was at the abdomen. In the Philo-

sophical Transactions is an account of two children thus united, born near Manchester, Eng. in 1752.—In 1748, Dr. Parsons communicated to the Royal Society an account of a still-birth not very unlike that of the boys now exhibited. The fœtuses were united from the umbilicus to the upper part of the sternum, and the single cord by which they were nourished, entered the connecting medium at a central point on its lower surface.—Dr. Cotton Mather communicated to a learned friend in England a similar case, of which he was eye-witness, and which occurred in this city in 1713; and a double fœtus, born in this country at a much later period, is now preserved, and deposited, if we mistake not, in the anatomical cabinet of a neighboring medical institution.

Most monsters have been stillborn, and of the few who have been living, a very small proportion have survived many days. The most remarkable, and, as far as our memory goes, the only case on record of such monsters acquiring the adult age, occurred in Hungary more than a century ago. Two females, Judith and Helen, born in Szona in 1701, were united at the lower part of the back. They had between them but one urethra, and one passage for the fœcal evacuations. Their bodies, abating the deformed part alluded to, were well shaped, and their faces beautiful. They were intelligent, and, like the boys of Siam, not only contented, but, in the language of their father, “both brisk and merry.” Like them, also, these girls “had not their feeling common any where but in

the place of their conjunction.” When one stooped she lifted the other on her back, and when one went forward the other was drawn backward. One would sometimes sleep whilst the other was awake, and though tenderly attached, their inclinations were not always the same. These Hungarian sisters were well educated and well bred; they could speak four different languages, and sing very prettily. They lived to the age of twenty-two years, during which time they were exhibited in different parts of Europe, and both died together in 1723.

CHIRAYITA HERB.

THE virtues of this remedy, with a case of leucorrhœa cured by it by Dr. Blundell, will be found referred to in page 174 of this volume of the Journal. As a tonic and stomachic remedy, it appears to be gaining favor with the profession abroad, and we are happy to apprise our readers that it has found its way across the Atlantic, and is now for sale by Ebenezer Wight, Apothecary, in Milk Street. The last number of the London Gazette of Health contains the history of a clergyman at Clifton, who after having suffered severely and many years from dyspepsia, accompanied by distressing nervous headach and a high degree of excitability of the nervous system, was entirely cured by the chirayita.

TANNIN IN MENORRHAGIA.

THE *Révue Médicale*, of the month of September last, contained some observations of Pata on the good effects of tannin in the above disease. When

these observations met the eye of Cavalier, he was attending a young woman, 33 years of age, affected with hemorrhage from the uterus, for the cure of which he had employed various means in vain. It must be observed, that this female had been subject, for many years, to a bleeding from the anus, which increased, but without deranging the course of the menstrual discharge. But after a violent affection of the mind, this bleeding became much worse, and a uterine hemorrhage also took place. At length M. Cavalier prescribed the tannin, in doses of two grains every two hours. On the first day, some amendment was perceptible; on the second, the flux of blood from the anus ceased; and on the third, the menorrhagia was stopped, giving place to an abundant leucorrhœa, but this also diminished under the continued use of the same remedy, and the patient became convalescent. The same author also relates the case of a young girl of 17, who was affected with uterine hemorrhage in consequence of using violent exercise during the period of menstruation. She had employed all the common remedies, including extract of rhata-ny and opium. Everything having been useless, he prescribed the tannin, and with success equally prompt as in the first instance; for, at the end of four days, the discharge had entirely ceased.

Case of Tetanus cured by Bleeding.—A man, of about 30 years of age, after working very hard, experienced severe pains in the vertebral column: he was attacked by locked-jaw, to which, in a few days, succeeded tetanus and emprosthotonos. In the course of nineteen days, he was bled eight times from the arm: the four first bleedings were performed in the first two days, from three to four pallets each. In the same time, six hundred and eighty leeches were applied along the spine, two or three warm baths were administered, and

every morning and evening a simple clyster, with an addition of 25 drops of laudanum, which were gradually increased to 105 drops. The patient was cured.—It is to be remarked, that notwithstanding the great loss of blood, the pulse continued both very full and very frequent. The man was so little weakened, that on the fourth day of his convalescence he was in a condition to walk.

Intermittent Tetanus.—A woman, 67 years of age, was affected with whitlow on the thumb of the right hand: the first phalanx being detached, the wound healed: a fortnight afterwards a pricking pain was felt in the lower part of the cicatrix, which extended little by little to the whole arm, following the course of the median nerve: this pain lasted from five minutes to a quarter of an hour, and returned once every day. After the lapse of a few months, trismus and opisthotonos were added to the other symptoms. The thumb was amputated, and the disease did not reappear. On examining the amputated part, it was observed that the cicatrix was cartilaginous, and that a nervous twig that was imbedded in it, was of a deep red color for the extent of a line and a half.—*Heidelberger Clineche Annalen.*

Poisoned Sugar-Plums.—The French chemists have, at different times, pointed out the danger of eating colored "bonbons." In a recent number of the *Clinique*, it is stated that many accidents have very lately occurred in Paris from this cause. We have never known such accident in this country, though children eat them very freely.

REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

The week ending August 22, at noon.

Of bilious fever, 1—consumption, 1—cholera morbus, 1—child-bed, 1—dysentery, 2—enlargement of the heart, 1—infantile, 4—liver complaint, 1—measles, 4—old-age, 1—spasm, 2—teething, 1. Males, 7—females, 13. Total, 20.

ADVERTISEMENT.

EUROPEAN LEECHES.

RICHARD A. NEWELL, Druggist, respectfully acquaints the physicians and families of the city, that he has made arrangements with one of the first mercantile houses on the continent, to be regularly supplied with the Genuine Medicinal Leech. He has now on hand a fresh supply, just received, which are for sale.

N. B. The difficulty of obtaining genuine Leeches by the usual way has induced him to make the above arrangement at considerable expense, and he hopes it will meet the approbation of the medical faculty. Summer-street, opposite Purchase-street.

Sept. 1.

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES in Harvard University will begin in the Massachusetts Medical College, Mason-street, Boston, the third WEDNESDAY in October next, the 21st, at nine o'clock, A. M.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. WARREN.
Chemistry, Dr. WEBSTER.

Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence,
Dr. CHANNING.

Materia Medica, Dr. BIGELOW.

Theory and Practice of Physic, Dr. JACKSON.

Students attending the Medical Lectures are admitted, *without fee*, to the Surgical Operations and Clinical Practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, during the courses.

Aug. 4. W. CHANNING, *Dean*.
eoptOct21.

NEW LONDON WORK.

JUST received, by CARTER & HENDEE, corner of Washington and School streets, A Chemical Catechism; in which the Elements of Chemistry, with the recent discoveries in the Science, are clearly and fully explained. Illustrated by Notes, Engravings and Tables, and containing an Appendix of select Experiments, &c. By THOMAS GRAHAM, M.D. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, &c. &c.

C. & H. have also just received, Elements of Chemistry. By ANDREW FYFE, M.D. F.R.S.E.

EUROPEAN LEECHES.

CHARLES WHITE, No. 269 Washington street, corner of Winter street, has just received a fresh supply of EUROPEAN LEECHES, extra large and in prime order. Also, by the late arrivals, a general assortment of MEDICINE.

*** Strict personal attention paid to Physicians' prescriptions and to the compounding and delivery of Family Medicine, and all favors gratefully received.

Sept. 1.

MEMOIRS OF DR. GOOD.

JUST published and for sale by CARTER & HENDEE, Memoirs of the Life, Writings, and Character, Literary, Professional, and Religious, of the late JOHN MASON GOOD, M.D. F.R.S. F.R.S.L. Mem. Am. Phil. Soc. and F.L.S. of Philadelphia, &c. &c. By OLINthus GREGORY, LL.D. Aug. 11.

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

THE Annual Course of LECTURES will commence on the first Thursday in September, and continue fifteen weeks.

Theory and Practice of Physic by H. H. CHILDS, M.D.

Anatomy and Physiology, J. D. WELLS, M.D.

Medical Jurisprudence, S. W. WILLIAMS, M.D.

Theoretical and Operative Surgery, S. WHITE, M.D. and S. P. WHITE, M.D.

Materia Medica, Pharmacy and Obstetrics, C. B. COVENTRY, M.D.

Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy and Natural Philosophy, C. DEWY, M.D.

Matriculation ticket, \$ 3. Fee for Lectures, \$ 40. Library ticket, \$ 1. Graduation, \$ 15.50. Board, including washing, lodging and room, \$ 1.75 a week.

Pittsfield, July 22, 1829. aug4tsept30

MEMOIR OF DR. HOLYOKE.

JUST published, and for sale by CARTER & HENDEE,—A Memoir of EDWARD A. HOLYOKE, M.D. LL.D., prepared in compliance with a vote of the Essex South District Medical Society.

Carter & Hendee have just received the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, No 8, August, 1829.—C. & H. receive subscriptions for this valuable work, and can supply the numbers from its commencement. Aug. 18.

Published weekly, by JOHN COTTON, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year. The postage for this is the same as for other newspapers.